FBIS
DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 AUGUST 1980

Reaction to Israeli Incursion

Lebanese leaders have continued to express dismay over the low degree of international reaction to the 19 August Israeli incursion into southern Lebanon. According to Beirut radio reports, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss said he is "saddened" by the fact that the Arab states and the world as a whole have "not faced up to the tragedy." He noted that Lebanon has contacted Arab and foreign diplomats in the hope that their countries will "awaken" to the seriousness of the situation and that "influential" states in particular will take steps to prevent further Israeli sallies into Lebanon. Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus called the U.S. State Department statement on the incursion "extremely weak" in view of the serious nature of the Israeli action. Noting that there is a question as to whether U.S. arms were used during the operation, Brutus said that the United States "must be careful" that the Israelis observe the conditions under which U.S. arms are supplied to them. Butrus said that Lebanon will continue to raise this issue with the United States so as to "face it with its responsibility." The foreign minister also expressed "surprise" and "regret" over Arab "silence" concerning the events in Lebanon.

High-level Arab reaction has been limited to the earlier statement by Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali calling the Israeli action a "new obstacle" to peace, a terse allusion by President Anwar as-Sadat to "military actions against Israel's neighbors" in the context of daily Israeli "surprises" and comments from Saudi Arabia and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. The Saudi statement, reported by Riyadh radio and attributed only to a "responsible source" at the Foreign Ministry, "strongly condemned" the Israeli aggression and called on all states supporting Israel to stop doing so as a contribution to the achievement of peace in the Middle East. 'Arafat, in a message to Arab leaders broadcast over Voice of Palestine, said the struggle against Israel "needs a serious and responsible attitude on our part--a unified attitude."

Israel

In an emotional speech at the funeral of an Israeli soldier killed during the 19 August incursion into southern Lebanon, broadcast by IDF radio, Prime Minister Menahem Begin stated that "there is no more reprisal in Israel." Instead, Begin said, Israel will strike the enemy "any time and in any place."

The Israeli Foreign Ministry, in an announcement reported by Jerusalem radio, asserted that the 20 August UN Security Council resolution calling for the removal of embassies from Jerusalem is "unfair" and "unilateral" and proves that the United Nations is a "tool" of Israel's enemies. The announcement said that Israel "rejects" the resolution and that Jerusalem will never be partitioned again. It expressed disappointment with the "free and important" countries that support resolutions "not relevant to reality." The radio also noted that Foreign Minister Shamir had met with the U.S. ambassador to convey Israel's "dissatisfaction" with the U.S. abstention.

Finance Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz, interviewed by Jerusalem radio after his meeting with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis to discuss an Israeli request for $3 billion in aid, said that he had discussed with the ambassador the costs to Israel of withdrawing from the Sinai, the difficulty of competing with the "immense" military reinforcement of the Arab armies--which is being done "partly as a result of U.S. aid"--and steps that Israel has taken to improve its economic situation. Hurvitz said there is no way Israel can bear its tremendous military, economic and social expenses without U.S. assistance.

Egypt

In an interview given to the MA'ARIV correspondent in Cairo, President as-Sadat admitted to having "sharp differences of opinion" with President Carter concerning his decision to suspend the autonomy talks until after the U.S. presidential election. He said that while he too would prefer to have the talks continue, he had found it impossible because Israel "surprised" him every day with one action or another, such as the Jerusalem law, new settlements or military operations. As-Sadat said he cannot comment on Prime Minister Begin's reply to his second letter because he has not yet read it. He expressed dismay at what he termed the "short circuit in communications" between Israel and Egypt: "Every action or declaration of mine is incorrectly interpreted in Israel." He cited as an example his invitation to President Navon sent "to strengthen the normalization process." Instead, he said, "it was interpreted as though I tried to hurt Begin."

Iran

Tehran radio reported that the Majles has decided to respond to a letter sent by 187 congressmen on the issue of the hostages. This decision followed the presentation of a report by the Majles Foreign Commission which stated that after "protracted" discussions it had concluded that a reply must be sent. The report stated that Iran cannot permit itself to be isolated within its own borders and that the congressmen's letter provides Iran with an opportunity to present its "demands" to the world. According to Tehran radio's Arabic service, Ayatollah Beheshti, when asked about Iran's "stand" toward the United States, dismissed the issue as "not of primary importance" and said the government will be responsible for it after the cabinet is appointed and "settled." Beheshti did not elaborate, leaving open what role, if any, the executive might play along with the Majles in the disposition of the hostages. Tehran radio's Arabic service cited President Bani-Sadr as saying that the dispatch of U.S. troops to the Gulf of Oman was "part of a general plan to attack Iran." The president also claimed that Iran is aware of U.S. plans for an attack across the Turkish and Iraqi borders.

In internal developments Tehran radio carried Bani-Sadr's decree officially appointing Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i as prime minister. AFP, citing the ISLAMIC REVOLUTION newspaper, said the governor of the central bank has warned about the economic deterioration of the country. Oil exports, for instance, fell to 570,000 barrels per day in July. He particularly criticized the process of multiple decisionmaking and the lack of an overall economic strategy and said that the national leadership must find a way to resolve the "political deadlock."

Syria

INA, in a Paris-datelined dispatch, reported that "sources close to Syrian circles" have confirmed that Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm has resigned because of "strong differences" with other top leaders of the Syrian Government. The sources said President Hafiz al-Asad has temporarily given the prime minister's portfolio to deputy prime minister 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah. The sources also claimed that a plot to kill Al-Asad on the first day of 'Id al-Fitr had been foiled. Monitored Syrian media have not confirmed this report.

Afghanistan

Reviving earlier charges, Afghanistan has again accused the United States of supplying chemical weapons to the insurgents. In a statement carried by Kabul radio, the Afghan Government cited the discovery in June of June of toxic "nerve substances" and water contaminated with a "virulent herbicide" in Kabul schools. The statement noted that chemical grenades andother chemical weapons bearing U.S. markings have been captured from rebel forces. It declared that Afghanistan is prepared to participate in an "examination" of the chemical weaponry produced in the United States and in an "inquiry" into the circumstances of their use in Afghanistan, but it did not suggest any forum for such an investigation.

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[TIMES 26 Jul]

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON USE OF U.S. CHEMICAL WEAPONS

LD202240 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Government statement:

The imperialist circles of the United States, Britain and certain other Western countries, as well as the Chinese hegemonists and their minions, using bases to train armed detachments of Afghan counterrevolutionaries on the territory of Pakistan and Iran, are continuing the undeclared war against the people of Afghanistan.

Reactionary forces are striving to violate the peaceful life of the Afghan people and to bring them incalculable misfortune and suffering. They are resorting to the most underhand methods of waging an armed struggle. Facts have already been noted of the bandits using chemical weapons. Their use has been resolutely condemned by the world public, the United Nations and all the democratic countries and progressive international organizations.

As recent events have shown, the reactionary forces are stepping up their criminal activities against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, a sovereign state and a member of the United Nations which belongs to the nonaligned movement. The scale of foreign interference in the republic is widening. Whereas international reaction previously tried to conceal facts about foreign assistance to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries and used illegal channels to provide it, the position today has changed.

The leaders of some Western countries are now openly clamoring for stepped-up assistance to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries. One may talk with certainty about the start of direct, widescale supplies of arms. This is borne out by the equipment captured by Afghan military units during operations to wipe out the bandits. Whereas basically outmoded types of arms, whose appearance in Afghanistan could be explained by the opportunity to acquire them on the so-called "free market," used to be supplied to the bandits, they are now being supplied with the latest types of Western-produced weapons, as well as weapons manufactured in such countries as China, Iran and Egypt, which are not sold on the "free market".

In connection with this, the Government of Afghanistan considers it its duty to inform the Muslim people of the country, the people and governments of all states, and all progressive forces of the world that, despite the many statements and protests by the Government of Afghanistan, international reaction, headed by American imperialism continues its criminal interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

In the struggle against the people and the lawful goverrment of the republic, such inhuman methods as the use of mass-destruction weapons--chemical weapons--which are banned by international treaties continue to be applied.

Apart from the seizing of American chemical grenades in the province of Herat on 23 March, which received wide publicity, there was the case of the toxic nerve substances in a number of schools in Kabul in early June. More than 250 Afghan schoolchildren, who were seriously poisoned, became victims of this act, unheard of in its cruelty and senselessness.

Nor can instances of water poisoning in Kabul schools and in (Bebimakhru) and (Suriyah), which happened on 9 June, fail to evoke indignation. As a result of research which was carried out, experts established that the basic component of the poisonous substance was a virulent herbicide which is capable of causing irreversible processes in the human body.

The counterrevolutionary forces continue to use chemical weapons during bandit raids, too. On 6 July, bandits carried out a night attack on the town of Ghazni. After the attack by the bandits was repulsed, soldiers of the Afghan Army found U.S.-manufactured chemical sabotage weapons with the markings M-12 and the inscription: danger! poison--do not touch. Poison gases discharged. The end of the consignment contains the explosive hole.

On 10 July, in the same town of Ghazni, another instance of the use of chemical weapons was noted. An American-made chemical grenade was thrown into the building of the provincial department of the state information services. Because the person who threw it did not know how to use it the grenade failed to explode. It had the marking M-709-0652-036-46. In early April this year armed forces of Afghanistan in the Province of Herat captured two antitank cumulative charge grenades made in the United States.

The Government of Afghanistan expresses its readiness, together with competent representatives of the world community, to conduct an examination of the chemical ammunition manufactured by the United States and an inquiry into the circumstances of their use by counterrevolutionary gangs, who are supplied from abroad with the most modern arms.

During clashes with the bandits Afghan servicemen also captured other ammunition manufactured in the United States, China, Iran, Egypt and Italy, which were demonstrated to journalists during a press conference in Kabul on 18 July this year.

The Government of Afghanistan expresses profound indignation and resolutely protests at the equipping of Afghan counterrevolutionary gangs with chemical weapons, whose use is unlawful and inhuman.

The Government of Afghanistan draws the attention of this to the governments of neighboring countries who are offering their territory for the implementation of subversive activities and acts of direct aggression, and warns that the entire responsibility for these criminal activities rests on them, as it does on the espionage and military departments of the United States and the other imperialist countries who are arming the bandits and terrorists with chemical weapons.

The Government of Afghanistan appeals to all democratic states, national progressive movements, international organizations and the entire world community to express a resolute protest at the criminal activities in Afghanistan of world imperialism and first and foremost the imperialism of the United States, to wreck their criminal plans aimed at causing incalculable misfortune and suffering to the peaceful people of Afghanistan, who are upholding their freedom and sovereignty.

ROMANIAN SPECIAL ENVOY DEPARTS 20 AUG

LD202235 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] Vasile Pungan, special envoy of Nicolae Ceausescu, the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and minister of state, after paying a friendly visit and holding discussions with the relevant Afghan authorities over matters of mutual interest, left for his country today.

At Kabul international airport, Fazl Rahim Mohamand, the minister of agriculture and land reform, and some of the high-ranking personnel of the Foreign Ministry saw off the special envoy of the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Press Statement on Visit

LD202254 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] Here follows the press statement issued at the end of the visit by the special envoy of the president of Socialist Republic of Romania:

On 18 and 19 August 1980 Vasile Pungan, minister of state and special envoy of Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, paid a friendly visit to Kabul. (Ayun Netrinov), adviser in the Romanian Foreign Ministry, accompanied Comrade Pungan on this visit.

Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] received Vasile Pungan on 19 August during his stay in Kabul. Vasile Pungan conveyed a message to Babrak Karmal from Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania. The best and most sincere wishes from Nicolae Ceausescu were conveyed by Vasile Pungan for the health and happiness of Babrak Karmal, chairman of the Revolution Council, and for the prosperity, peace, progress and great success of the people of Afghanistan in building a new society devoid of the exploitation of man by man.

In return Babrak Karmal expressed appreciation at receiving this friendly message and asked Vasile Pungan to convey warm greetings, friendly respect and his best wishes for the health, success and happiness of the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, as well as for the properity of the people of Romania and their success in building a new developed social state.

Both sides held discussions on matters of strengthening friendship between the peoples of Afghanistan and Romania; and the development of cooperation between the PDPA and the Romanian Communist Party. In accordance with the principles of total equality, mutual respect and national sovereignty, independence, noninterference in each other's internal affairs and mutual interest, Vasile Pungan paid a courtesy call on Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, deputy prime minister, member of the Revolution Council and minister of planning, and had talks with Shah Mohammad Dost, the foreign minister of the DRA.

In the course of the meetings, held in an atmosphere of friendship, problems of mutual interest and some international problems, especially the situation in the Near East and the position of Afghanistan, were discussed. Both sides emphasized the necessity for a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan.

'TERRORISTS' CAPTURED, KILLED IN TAKHAR PROVINCE

LD201702 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] A group of 44 counterrevolutionary terrorists and elements connected to groups which are against our sacred land tried to disturb the peace and tranquillity of the people of Takhar Province and to loot the property of the people of this province upon the orders of their reactionary masters and U.S. imperialist circles. Recently four of these mercenaries were killed by the security forces and resistance groups with the help of the brave people of that province. The rest of the group has been captured.

A source from Takhar Province said that several kinds of arms, documents and propaganda leaflets have been captured from these servants of U.S. imperialism and reactionary circles. The source added that those captured are undergoing interrogation.

AFP: REBELS ATTACK KABUL AIRPORT 17 AUG

BK201315 Hong Kong AFP in English 1255 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] New Delhi, 20 Aug (AFP)--Afghan rebels attacked Kabul international airport after sundown last Sunday [17 August] and fighting continued for two hours before the insurgents were beaten back by Soviet-backed Afghan Government troops, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

The sources, who asked not to be named, confirmed reports from the Afghan capital and said local residents heard the gunfire which began around 8 pm. There was, however, no independent confirmation.

The sources could not say if the airport incident was an organised rebel attack or an attempt by stray rebel groups in the Afghan capital.

Soon after the incident, all approach roads to the airport were blocked and spot checking in the city intensified.

(Kabul airport has been the scene of fighting in mid-July between pro-Khalqi and pro-Parchami members of the special force which guards the airport. The fighting had occurred following the abduction and reported killing of the chairman of the Ariana Airlines, Col. Nader, by the Khalqis).

Quoting information from Kabul, the sources here said that the following day MI-24 helicopter gunships were seen bombing a place just one km east of the airport.

Firing was also heard from the Soviet army garrison in Khayr Khanah, a Kabul suburb, according to the sources.

Last Saturday Soviet tanks, armoured personnel carriers (APC) and trucks were seen proceeding towards the Paghman mountain range, about 20 km (12 miles) north-east of the city. Helicopter gunships were also seen flying towards the Paghman mountain range, the sources said.

The target appeared to be a village where the rebels had taken shelter, the sources said.

Quoting Afghan sources in Kabul, Western diplomats here said that an unspecified number of villagers had fled to the city.

The sources spoke of an increase in night assassinations in the city and rumours of impending fights between the rebels and the Soviet forces. They, however, did not give details.

Quoting unconfirmed reports, the sources said that on last Saturday a nephew of Afghan President Babrak Karmal was killed by the Khalqis. The sources neither named the deceased nor gave further details.

On the previous day, two important funerals had taken place in the Shahr-e Now and from the security arrangements it was apparent that the funerals concerned some important persons.

The same day foreign missions in the Afghan capital were invited to attend a government-sponsored meeting to discuss "the role of American imperialism and Chinese chauvinism in the present world," the sources said. The speakers at the meeting accused the United States, Pakistan, Iran and Egypt of aiding the rebels and claimed that agents from these countries had been arrested.

The foreign missions received an invitation to attend a display being held today of captured U.S., British, Chinese and Pakistani arms, the sources said.

The sources confirmed an earlier rebel claim from Peshawar in Pakistan that the rebels were collecting road taxes of 500 afghanis (about U.S. dollars 12) from each vehicle playing on the Kabul-Jalalabad road.

AFP REPORTS HEAVY FIGHTING BETWEEN REBELS, SOVIETS

OW202152 Paris AFP in English 2107 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 20 (AFP)--Moslem insurgents and joint Soviet-Afghan forces have fought for four days in several areas west of Kabul, leaving one hundred persons dead, Moslem rebels sources said here today. The battles broke out simultaneously when the Soviet Army landed paratroopers at Panjsher, Nejraf, Saighan, Balaghan in the Parvan Province over the weekend, according to reports reaching the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan.

Sources said more than a dozen helicopters and Soviet jets took part in the attacks which left a number of Afghan villages destroyed.

The rebels claimed to have destroyed three Soviet helicopters, and said both sides suffered heavy losses.

Sources added that they have received a report that Soviet forces last month launched a major offensive on Moslem guerrillas' positions in the Shigan area of Badakhashan, bordering the Soviet Union and China, and destroyed a number of houses in several villages.

LONDON PAPER REPORTS GOVERNMENT 'ABANDONMENT' OF HERAT

LD201105 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 20 Aug 80 p 4

[Report by "our Kabul correspondent": "Anti-Soviet Herat Abandoned by Kabul Authorities"]

[Text] After three weeks of bitter fighting in Herat Province the Afghan Government claimed yesterday that it had killed 35 insurgents but failed to mention that its authority in the city had collapsed.

Herat, the third [largest] city of Afghanistan, is the fiercest anti-Russian city in the country. The local administration exists in name only for the visitor.

The dreaded Tsarandoy, or the Russian-trained executive and special police force, are no longer in sight.

A few Russian tanks are cloistered round the city square protecting the small group of government officials who, for all purposes, have been abandoned by the central authority in Kabul.

The domestic airline has been reduced to one flight a week and that, too, more often than not, is cancelled at the last minute due to a shortage of the Russian-trained pilots. Most of them have fled to neighbouring Moslem countries where they have found ready jobs at much higher rates of pay.

Escaped Conscription

Sometimes the city is crowded with hundreds of Afghan youths who have escaped conscription. They make their way to neighbouring Iran, where they are well received, and appear to have little difficulty in getting round the Russian-controlled roadblocks.

There is great praise for Iran in Herat as the Iranians, starting from the border officials a short distance from the outskirts of the city, openly allow all Afghans free movement on both sides of their border and allow the flow of arms and supplies to the mojahedin rebels.

The mojahedin have inflicted heavy punishment on the Russian and the Afghan Parcham forces in Herat Province. The road from Herat to the huge Russian base at Farah is littered with destroyed armoured personnel carriers and military lorries.

These were first put out of action by rifle fire puncturing their tires. Then, under cover of darkness, they were set on fire.

Massive Convoys

According to local gossip the Farah base is better constructed and better stocked than the Bagram base near Kabul for, when the world's eyes were on Bagram, the Russians clandestinely kept massive convoys moving from the port of (Torghundi) to Farah.

Some Indian traders say the Russians have built underground shelters an an oil storage depot within Farah base because they always feared an attack from Iran is long as the late shah was in control. The risk of a war with Iran is ruled out by many in Herat but the danger of an Iranian civil war spilling over is not discounted.

Meanwhile there is speculation among Afghanis who regularly listen to Iranian, Pakistani and BBC broadcasts that the Russians are deliberately showing great restraint in the inflammatory region of Herat and Qandahar as they await decisive developments in Iran.

All Russians and East European advisers and technicians, who returned in February after having fled when Hafizollah Amin seized power last September, were ordered out of Herat two months ago.

There have been several reports, though none confirmed, that the stand by the people of Ghazni three weeks ago in support of the mutiny led by Commander (Jafar) of the Fourteenth Division was only possible because of the military assistance they were able to rush from Herat through Qandahar to Ghazni.

Now it is only under heavy military escort, supported by tanks and helicopter gunships, that the Russians are able to move about in an area they occupied last Christmas.

SHAHI EXPRESSES REGRET OVER UN DECISION ON JERUSALEM

BK211037 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 21 Aug 80

[Text] Pakistan's Foreign Minister Agha Shahi, who is the chairman of the Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference, has regretted the Security Council's inability to impose mandatory sanctions against Israel. In a statement after the council (?meeting), he said sanctions against Israel were the only course which could secure compliance by the Jewish state. He said such action will serve as a timely warning to Israel and will help avert the grim prospect of a major catastrophe in the Middle East.

He said it is, therefore, imperative that the grave danger inherent in the persistent Israeli policies of aggression and annexation and its defiance of international law are fully realized by the member states of the United Nations and that they take effective measures against Israel in order to compel it to respect the decisions of the Security Council and terminate its prolonged occupation of the Palestinian and Arab land.

Shahi said the foreign ministers of Islamic countries would meet early in October in New York to recommend a program of action, including political, economic and cultural sanctions. to the Islamic summit to be convened in Saudi Arabia later this year.

COMMENTATOR ADVOCATES JOINT MUSLIM EFFORT AGAINST ISRAEL

BK190536 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 18 Aug 80

[Commentary by A.A. Jamil Zubaidi]

[Text] It is not only Israel's neighboring Islamic states which are worried over its decision to make the holy city of Jerusalem its permanent capital, but the entire Muslim fraternity all over the world. It was indeed the result of the occupation of the holy city and other Arab lands by Israel, with the help of sophisticated arms supplied by the United States of America, that the Muslim world sank its differences and united into one fraternity.

The Islamic Conference Organization came into being which took certain very effective steps to prevent the Israeli leaders from annexing Arab territories. But now, with the change in the geopolitical situation in South and Southeast Asia and in the Middle East, the Zionist leaders have become more and more arrogant in their behavior. Encouraged by the all-out American support, they have now decided to annex Jerusalem. Being aware of their say in the American presidential elections, they disclosed their nefarious intentions at this stage. Though the Muslim world is now coming out with measures which might prevent the Zionists from going to the extent they intend to, some long-term and more effective measures are overdue on the part of the Muslim countries to make their voice heard in the community of nations.

The short-term measures announced by the Islamic countries including breaking off diplomatic relations with the countries which would shift their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and economic and other sanctions against Israel have the unconditional support of the entire Muslim world. The most heartening feature in this regard is the realization by the Muslim fraternity that it will have to depend upon its own powers and potentials and that no other country will lend any effective support for its cause, however just it may be. This situation calls for greater economic cooperation among the Muslim countries.

The Islamic Conference Organization in all its regular and extraordinary meetings did recognize the need for developing such relations, but unfortunately no positive steps could be taken in this direction so far. At its summit meeting in 1974, these issues figured quite prominently and it was decided that a survey of the potentials existing in these countries should be undertaken to determine the extent and scope of economic collaboration in the Muslim world. Maybe due to other more pressing problems the survey has not been initiated so far and things remain where they were.

There is no denying the fact that the Muslim lands are endowed with rich and vast natural resources. Most of the world's oil reserves are located in these lands. They have other (?rich) resources which await exploitation. These countries have the necessary capital and some technical know-how as well. What is required now is to start moving. They should pool these resources and use them for their own benefit. The strength of a nation and for that matter of an entire region lies in the strength of its economy. This realization is noticeable among the Muslim countries. It is now time for them to stand and take effective steps to translate it into practice.

SHAHI MEETS WITH 'ARAFAT, SAUDI MINISTER IN NEW YORK

BK2000258 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] It is reported that Pakistan Foreign Minister Agha Shahi met with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Casablanca last Sunday and held detailed talks on important issues including the Middle East and Afghanistan. ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN reports from New York that Yasir 'Arafat asked Agha Shahi to convey thanks to Pakistan on behalf of Palestinians and the Palestinian movement for its vigorous support for the just cause of the Palestinians.

It is reported that Agha Shahi also met with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal in Casablanca and held talks with him on the situation in region. They also exchanged views on bilateral relations between two brotherly Islamic countries.

CHINESE, DPRK VICE PREMIERS MAKE BRIEF STOPOVERS

BK201620 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] Chinese Vice Premier Ji Pengfei made a brief stopover in Karachi this morning on his way to Nairobi from Beijing. The vice premier of the DPRK, (Kim Yong-pyong) arrived in Karachi from Beijing this morning from where he will leave for Kuala Lumpur tomorrow after a night's stay.

BEHESHTI DISCUSSES STAND ON U.S., HOSTAGE SITUATION

JN202110 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] Ayatollah Dr Beheshti, president of the Supreme Court, today took part in a press conference attended by Iranian and foreign correspondents. Asked about the Islamic Republic's stand toward the United States in view of its plots and the economic boycott it imposes on Iran, especially after the death of the deposed shah, whose extradition to Iran was one of the conditions for the release of the hostages, Dr Beheshti said that this issue is not of primary importance for us and that the government will be responsible for this issue after the Cabinet members are appointed and after the Cabinet gets settled.

Asked about the plots and the economic boycott against Iran, he said that Iran's response to such issues is further cohesion between the government and the people.

Regarding the policy of the Islamic Republican Party members in the Islamic Majles, Dr Beheshti said that the party has its own aims and directives and that the deputies are independent in their actions and methods as long as these actions and methods are in harmony with the party's system and its Islamic and social principles and creeds.

Regarding the duties of the judicial powers toward the deviant political groupings, he said that the judiciary power carries out the laws endorsed by the legislative power.

IRAN ISSUES STATEMENT ON CLOSING OF SOVIET CONSULATE

LD201042 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a statement today announcing that following the closure of the Iranian Consulate in Leningrad and the wish expressed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish a consulate in the city of Dushanbe, which was opposed by the Soviet Union, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Soviet Government that it must close down one of its consulates in Rasht or Esfahan. Before termination of the deadline, the charge d'affaires of the USSR Embassy arrived at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran and announced that his government has closed down its consulate general in Esfahan and will change its consulate in Rasht to a consulate general.

DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING RELATIONS WITH IRAQ

Clashes With Ba'thists

LD201054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 20Aug 90

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau and the PARS NEWS AGENCY, citing the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Qasr-e Shirin, yesterday evening there was a clash between armed mercenaries of the Iraqi Ba'thist Government and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in the region of (Duboch). During this clash one assailant was killed and another arrested.

Meanwhile, in a clash at 1700 yesterday between the combat group of Eslamabad's 1st Brigade, stationed in the heights north of (Golkhaneh), and armed assailants in the same region, one of the assailants was arrested and six were killed. After the clash the corpse of one of the assailants was left behind; also a Kalashinkov gun, 120 cartridges and a (?hut) belonging to the assailants were captured by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This clash lasted for 4 hours and the forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran returned to their base safely.

Number of Deportees Listed

GF201634 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] PARS NEWS AGENCY reports that the puppet Iraqi Ba'thist Government has deported another five Muslim brothers and sisters from Iraq. Thus the number of deportees who have come to Iran totals 39,200.

PDRY ENVOY DISCUSSES BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH RAFSANJANI

LD201100 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] The charge d'affaires of North Yemen in Tehran met Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, yesterday and congratulated him on being elected speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. At this meeting they discussed relations between the two countries.

CAPUCCI COMMENTS ON MEETINGS WITH BANI-SADR, KHOMEYNI

For the Rome ANSA and Paris AFP reports on Msgr Hilarion Capucci's meetings with Ayatollah Khomeyni and President Bani-Sadr during his visit to Tehran, see the Italy & the Vatican section of the 19 Aug Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

COVERAGE OF ACTIVITIES OF AYATOLLAH KHOMEYNI

Call for Brotherhood Under Islam

GF201905 Tehran Domestic Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Aug 80

[Khomeyni address to members of the crusade for reconstruction for Sisten va Balchestan, Jiroft and Dowlatabad, Yazd region--date and place not given, read by announcer, duration 13 minutes]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: We thank God the provider that the nation of Iran, all the (?tribes) and the brothers of this religion, and our Sunni brothers are working side by side and in brotherhood to establish the order of Islam.

My brothers and sisters, we are in a period in which all countries of the world are like one house. In the past if something happened in one town it did not bother a neighboring town. They either did not get any information about it or, if they did, it was not important. Now the situation is such that events in one country are issues to be considered in all parts of the world. News of a disagreement cannot be confined to a country or a town; the effects spread to all parts of the world.

The world political situation now is such that all countries of the world are under political observation by the superpowers. They observe any work to defeat classes (?other than theirs) with their plans. They try to exacerbate differences among brothers. Their main political plans are to divide brothers and friends under the guise of different schemes.

We have seen that when the nation of Iran was united and treated all as brothers and when all of them gave attention to the Islamic brotherhood, the great powers were not able to stand against these united brothers and resist them. They took their [word indistinct] and left, although some of their rotten roots still secretly exist in this country. But these rotten roots cannot upset the belief which is within you now. This belief which God has given us is not the monopoly of the faithful in Iran; it (?exists) in all the faithful of the world. All the Muslims of the world, all the faithful should be brothers. If the Islamic countries behave as brothers, if the masses in these countries look at each other as brothers, then they can overcome all the superpowers. Don't think that if something happens in one corner of the world other countries are left in the dark about it. Today the world is one tribe, a single organ.

If there is any disagreement between the Sunni and Shi'ite brothers, it will be to the detriment of all of us, all our brothers. Those who want to disagree among us are the servants of the superpowers. They are responsible to the enemies of Islam and plan to help them overcome Islam. They are supporters of the United States and the Soviet Union.

Muslims should realize that any disagreement between us today is unwise. Muslims everywhere should notice that disagreements among nations, even if they are separated into East and West, are not like in the past. Such events today are world, not local, events. If there is any disagreement between you brothers in Iran, that is a world event. If disagreement between the Iranian and Iraqi brothers happens--I mean the nation of Iraq--this is also a world event, and the nations who want to control world events will use disagreements which might occur between Shi'ites and Sunnis in Iran. If there is any disagreement between us and our Pakistani brothers, they will benefit from it. We should be alert. You should give attention to a crusade with your conscience as well as the reconstruction crusade. If the reconstruction crusade does something against Islam or against the welfare of the country and the revolution, this will result in disappointment for the people.

All officials should be responsible for their actions. It should not be that anyone who feels like it can undermine the authority of the armed forces or the revolution guards. The entire nation is dutybound to protect and support these forces and keep the peace, and not to interfere in the affairs of the state. The members of the armed forces should uphold the law and obey their superior officers. The reconstruction crusade should also uphold the laws and regulations or any responsible official. Members of the reconstruction crusade should not interfere in matters that do not concern them. The guards should not interfere in matters not under their jurisdiction.

Everyone should follow the rules and no organization should haggle with another. All should treat each other like brothers. I hope that all our brothers in Iran and all the people of this nation, including the religious minorities, unite and treat each other like brothers so that the country can go forward and the teachings of Islam can flourish in this land. All the people of the Islamic land should benefit. I hope that all Islamic nations do not assume that we are on one branch and they on another. The Koran calls us all brothers, from any corner of this globe. Those in the East or the West are not separate; they are all brothers in Islam and should consider their fate the fate of Islam and all the nations. Every nation should consider the fate of others as their own and all the faithful everywhere should be brothers.

Meeting With Azarbayjan Officials

LD202140 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1930 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] The governor general of East Azarbayjan, accompanied by the governor of Moghan and the officials of the Moghan agrobusiness sector and other officials of the region, as well as a number of others who have responsibilities in agricultural matters, were received by the imam of the nation this afternoon.

According to the report of the PARS NEWS AGENCY, the governor general informed the imam that in the past year the agricultural products of Moghan region totaled 28,000 tons of wheat which had been bought [by the government]. Fortunately, this year, as the result of the endeavors of the interested farmers of the region, wheat production has gone beyond 70,000 tons and the buying of the wheat is being continued. He added: The Moghan agrobusiness sector has shown remarkable activity compared to the past year due to the cooperation of the brothers and sisters, members of the crusade for reconstruction and the guards corps, and it has shown great advancement compared to previous years in the production of wheat, fruits and other agricultural products.

According to this report, Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while expressing his satisfaction, told the agricultural officials of Moghan: Convey my greetings to all the inhabitants of Azarbayjan, especially to the farmers of that region. While praying a lot for all of them, he wished for their success.

At the end of this meeting, engineer Gharavi, governor general of East Azarbayjan, told the correspondent of PARS NEWS AGENCY: The officials of the Moghan agrobusiness sector were hoping that as recompense for their work and their round-the-clock efforts they would visit the imam after harvesting the crops. In this way their aspiration was answered.

It should be noted that the production and the purchase of the wheat and its transportation to the silos was carried out without any untoward events and in complete calm. In this way, (?the farmers) engaged in noteworthy anti-imperialist activity.

COVERAGE OF ACTIVITIES OF PRESIDENT BANI-SADR

Security Commission Meeting

LD201156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] A session of the National Security Commission was held this morning in the presence of Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the armed forces.

According to a report by the PARS NEWS AGENCY, at this session, which started at 0930 and lasted more than 4 hours, general questions of national security were investigated and discussed.

Raja'i Appointment Decree

LD201300 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0935 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] The PARS NEWS AGENCY reports that on the instructions of President Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i has been appointed prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The text of the decree is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: Your Excellency Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, in view of your (?willingness) and the vote by the esteemed deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, you are hereby appointed prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I deem it necessary to remind you that in the present sensitive circumstances you, as prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, must (?observe) the purport of the Constitution as your guideline above all else; and by trying to restore security, unity and economic revival and by the establishment of Islamic (?principles) in relations between people and government, you must make the theme of your government the principle of defending political, economic and cultural independence of the country and safeguarding the rights and freedom of every member of the nation, something which is not possible except by achieving unity and understanding among the forces committed to the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

May God Almighty bestow success upon you.

[Signed] President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr

Possibility of U.S. Invasion

JN210645 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 21 Aug 80

[Text] President Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr has expressed his belief that the dispatch of U.S. troops to the Gulf of Oman is part of a general plan to attack Iran.

This came in a statement the president of the republic made to the newspaper ENQELAB-E ESLAMI, which was reported today by AFP.

On the possibility of a U.S. invasion of Iran, President Bani-Sadr said that the United States has formed treasonous Iranian groups [firaqan Iraniyah kha'inah] to use in invading the country. He added: We have information on plans to attack us via the Iraqi and Turkish borders.

Dr Bani-Sadr's statements followed a report on the arrival of 1,800 U.S. Marines in the Sea of Oman aboard five warships.

BEHESHTI SPEAKS ON JUSTICE MINISTER, NEWS MEDIA

LD201134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] Ayatollah Dr Mohammad Beheshti, president of the country's Supreme Court, made the following announcement today during his weekly press conference:

The justice minister will be introduced to the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Supreme Justice Council at the beginning of next week. He added: According to the Constitution, the introduction of the justice minister for membership in the Council of Ministers is the duty of the Supreme Justice Council.

The correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran reports that in this press conference Dr Beheshti also talked of the way in which the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran should be administered, saying: After the government has obtained the vote of confidence by the Majles, the country's three powers [legislative, executive and judicial] will rule on the administration of radio and television and the way in which their programs should be planned.

He also added: The function of the Justice Ministry's executive officers is not (?restricted), and the Supreme Judicial Council has prepared a bill for the judicial police. At the end of his interview Dr Beheshti announced that the judicial police will be established soon.

MAJLES DISCUSSES CONGRESSMEN'S LETTER, OIL MINISTER

LD201222 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0940 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Excerpts] The Islamic Consultative Assembly held an open session today presided over by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani. The session started at 0920 with the recitation of some verses from the holy Koran. During this session the report of the committee investigating the confirmation of credentials of 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar, a Tehran deputy [also present oil minister], was raised, and some deputies expressed opinions opposing his credentials. At the end of this session, as there was not enough time, the continuation of discussion on credentials of the Tehran deputy was postponed to the next open session.

Our correspondent reports that during today's open session of the Majles, the rapporteur of the foreign commission of the Majles presented a report of the works of this commission on the letter from the American congressmen to the Majles, saying: Following protracted discussions the commission arrived at this conclusion: A reply should be sent to the letter of the American congressmen, because at present we are engaged in a full-scale war with America and we must not permit our enemy to isolate us within our own borders. Now an opportunity has arisen to enable us to present to the world some of our demands, and this reply of ours will be reported by all news agencies as an indictment and as an official document; thus our message will reach the world.

Following the report of the commission for foreign affairs, several of the deputies spoke in favor and against the proposal, and finally by open vote the deputies approved the act of replying to the letter of the American congressmen.

At the end of today's session Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani announced that henceforth the Majles will hold open sessions on odd days--Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays--and that there will be sessions of the Majles commissions on even days.

Today's open session ended at 1310 when it was announced that the Majles will hold an open session at 0900 next Sunday to continue its discussion on the credentials of 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar, Tehran's deputy.

MAJLES DEFENSE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ISSUES STATEMENT

LD201745 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] The following statement was issued tonight by the Islamic Consultative Assembly's Defense Affairs Committee:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: Noble Iranian nation, on great God's (?blessing) the most important base of the nation's will, namely the Majles, has begun its work and the Defense Affairs Committee of the Majles has given top priority in its program of work to reviewing and studying the system in the army and to its fundamental changes and transformations. While taking advantage of the projects proposed by the Ministry of Defense and the army staff, we are seeking the assistance of all the people because of the importance of the matter, so that anyone who may have a proposal or comment regarding the fundamental army system in the future Islamic and revolutionary army can send it by 23 October to the Majles' Defense Affairs Committee in Tehran.

CENTRAL BANK HEAD NOBARI WARNS OF ECONOMIC DETERIORATION

NC201609 Paris AFP in English 1439 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] Tehran, Aug 20 (AFP)--The governor of the Iranian Central Bank, 'Ali Reza Nobari, today warned that the deteriorating economic situation is "leading the country into a dead end."

He told the ISLAMIC REVOLUTION paper that Iran's oil exports fell to 570,000 barrels a day between June 21 and July 21. This compares with Oil Ministry figures at the beginning of July indicating that exports were running at a million barrels a day.

Criticising the process of multiple decisionmaking and the lack of a strategy, Mr Nobari said: "With an unheard of budget deficit, Iran will be confronted with a financial crisis leading the country into a dead end. This dead end is not economic but political."

In this context, he said of the forthcoming presidential election in the United States: "It is possible that instead of a fascist, someone with an even more fascist outlook will become president."

He added: "I doubt that in our country anyone has drawn up a strategy to face up to this problem. No decision has been made on this and certainly not by our Foreign Ministry."

Mr Nobari said Iran had no programme for creating jobs although a million people aged over 18 were about to arrive on the job market.

He declared: "The country's leaders must find a solution to the political deadlock."

Mr Nobari also recalled the instruction by Iran's religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni urging Iranian workers abroad to repatriate their currency through Iranian banks and not to deal with currency dealers.

KEYHAN REPORTS ON OPERATION OF OIL WELLS ON IRAQI BORDER

LD201051 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Aug 80 p 15

[Unattributed report: "With Installations Under Guard, Six (figure as published) Oil Wells Go Into Production"]

[Text] The Oil Ministry spokesman made an announcement today in connection with security in the oilfields, to the effect that following sustained efforts by the combined forces of the army, the gendarmerie, and the security organizations of the Oil Ministry and the NIOC, and in addition, as a result of liaison between this group and the 92nd Armored Division in Ahvaz, which provided security cover for the Dehloran region, there was a resumption of oil production on 11 August at wells Nos 2 and 5, Cheshmeh Khosh, and Nos 2 and 5, Dehloran, at the oilfield straddling the Iranian-Iraqi border. On the same date, there was also a resumption in drilling operations on wells 12, 13, 14 and 15--which had been suspended for some time owing to lack of security--despite the fact that since the inception of the Islamic Republic of Iran, counterrevolutionaries and the American enemies both at home and abroad have been impeding NIOC activity in the region, and quickly succeeded in disrupting extraction and exploration operations by setting off explosions and creating a climate of unrest.

It is to be hoped that now that committed NIOC staff have resumed their activities after this pause, the commander in chief of the forces and the Islamic Republic of Iran Combined Army Staff will assist the oil industries' zealous staff in the crusade which has now begun, given the crucial importance of oil extraction and exploration in the region, and by constantly averting terrorism and agitation, which might disturb production. [incomplete sentence as published]

REVOLUTION GUARDS ARREST 'COUP NETWORK' MEMBERS

LD201455 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Aug 80 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Members of Coup d'Etat Network Arrested in Sari by Islamic Revolution Guards"]

[Text] Sari--A coup d'etat network has been discovered by the Islamic Revolution Guards in Sari, and several members of the group have been arrested.

The leader of the group was Col Zal Naderi, who took commando courses in Israel and America.

Members of the network, who included supporters of the former regime, were grouped together in five-man committees under the contol of Zal Naderi.

On the basis of investigations by the Sari Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the network was formed early in 1980 with the following aims:

1--To identify trusted persons in government offices and organizations;

2--To identify persons who were subservient and were good marksmen;

3--To identify prominent and active members of the Islamic Revolution and introduce them to supporters of the group;

4--To identify the location of arms depots belonging to the armed services in Mazandaran Province;

5--To train individuals in warfare and military techniques.

According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY report, group leader Col Zal Naderi confessed to having many meetings with Bakhtiar and Oveysi and stated that he facilitated the escape in the border zone of several spies and supporters of the hated past regime.

KHALKHALI FORCES ROUND UP DRUG ADDICTS

LD170608 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Aug 80

[Excerpt] Hojjat ol-Eslam Sheykh Sadeq Khalkhali, the supervisor of the special Islamic revolution courts and the supervisor of the headquarters for the fight against narcotics, in a conversation with a PARS NEWS AGENCY correspondent announced that 300 addicts have been removed from Tehran streets by the police and the Revolution Guards Corps and taken to the special court for the fight against narcotics in Qasr Prison.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khalkhali added: I call upon the police to remove all the addicts from Tehran streets as soon as possible with care and perseverance.

I also ask those persons in charge of organizations for the fight against narcotics to provide facilities and (?centers) for treatment of the addicts, as had been promised earlier.

NVOI COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL, DOMESTIC ISSUES

Attack on Qotbzadeh Remarks

GF181316 (Clandestine) National Voice of Inran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 17 Aug 80

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots, plays on words and social and political catchphrases have become a new trend and a means of disguise for some recently to hide their true beliefs and mislead the people. One such phrase which is part to this trend in our country is "Neither Eastern nor Western." It is used by a group that tries to prove that it does not lean toward the East or the West while attacking U.S. imperialism and leveling unjust and unjustifiable allegations against our northern neighbor, the Soviet Union.

Let's look at the activities of the foreign minister, Mr. Qotbzadeh, over the past few months. It seems he is one of those who adores phrases; we should say the phrase he really adores is "Not an Easterner but a Westerner."

Mr. Qotbzadeh, when it is a case of not leaning toward the East, accepts all the fallacious propaganda of the United States, the Zionists or the Western media against the Soviet Union as pure gold and repeats it in great detail.

We are all familiar with his blunders in such matters. For example, we know about the false report of a press conference by a Soviet minister in Mexico and other such errors. For Qotbzadeh it is enough that a Western lackey reporter publishes, knowingly, a false report to undermine the links between Iran and the Soviet Union. He will immediately use that to attack the Soviet Union in order to prove he is not a supporter of the East.

What does he do to prove he does not support the West? He will not look at all his blunders. Let's just look at the story about participation in the American-inspired conference of the Islamic foreign ministers in Islamabad. All true revolutionary forces, from the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy to members of the Qom clergy, from the clergy to the Islamic Republican Party, from the Tudeh Party to the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization and the Feda'i-ye Khalq group, even AZADEGAN, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, KEYHAN, MARDOM and other newspapers disagreed with Iran's participation in that Carter-concocted conference. But Qotbzadeh persisted and went to the conference and, to prove he was not a supporter of the West, said on 24 February: It is not to our advantage to break off relations with the United States since we have over 100,000 Iranians living in that country.

In the second American Islamic conference the same Mr Qotbzadeh not only participated but also took along Afghan counterrevolutionaries including the murderer Burhanuddin Rabbani, who is under U.S. influence and enjoys the support of the United States and Ziaul Haq. He did so under the cover of the Iranian delegation so that he supposedly was showing he was not a supporter of the West and was against U.S. imperialism.

People like him who show up one day in China, the next in the United States, and at the time of the Iranian revolution in France, are well known. The people are gradually learning about them. The pity is that a group whose patriotism is beyond doubt has been unwittingly trapped by such people. These people, for whom the phrase "Neither Eastern nor Western" is only a means to divert the people's attention from the world-devouring United States which [word indistinct] with our natural allies like the Soviet Union and the Palestinian people, aim to strangle our revolutionary movement.

Attack on U.S. Law Violations

TA200527 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 18 Aug 80

[Unattributed commentary: "World-Devouring America Is Condemned in the Court of the Iranian Nation"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: In a meeting which took place between Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and charges d'affaires and ambassadors of Italy, Belgium, Holland and Japan, the problem of the American spy hostages--who under the pretext of diplomatic personnel participated in espionage and subversive activities in our country--was once more raised. In this meeting the official representatives of the EEC member countries and Japan indicated that the act of the struggling students, followers of the imam's policy, with respect to these American spies was contrary to international laws and standards.

Without doubt, those who under the pretext of the observance of international laws and standards have assumed responsibility for supporting a group of professional American spies, should at least possess sufficient knowledge about these laws and standards. Notwithstanding the fact that many of these laws--as Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani said--had been prepared to the advantage of Western countries, especially the United States, however, even if on the basis of these same laws we want to review relations between our country and world-devouring America, the United States is a condemned country and a violator of the existing international laws and standards.

It should be asked of these gentlemen ambassadors and charges d'affaires of the countries of Belgium, Italy, Holland and Japan, where in these international laws and standards is permission granted to a foreign country--and in this case to world-devouring America--to shamelessly and openly interfere in our country's internal affairs? For more than half a century British colonialism and U.S. imperialism imposed the oppressive and corrupt rule of the criminal Pahlavi dynasty over the Iranian nation by resorting to [words indistinct] and by rolling in the dust and blood of the best sons of our homeland. In the meeting with these gentlemen Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani justly said: For how long did the Pahlavi family--Reza Khan and his son-who were the puppets of Western countries, particularly the United States, [words indistinct] over our nation? Whenever our people wanted to liberate themselves they were confronted with the large-scale interventions of these countries, especially the United States.

Referring to the oil nationalization movement and to the bloody and obvious plot of U.S. and British imperialism in carrying out the evil coup of August against the legal government of the late Mossadeq, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani said: Thirty years ago the struggles of the Iranian nation to nationalize the oil industry were entirely crushed by these same American agents and by the Government of the United States. By interfering directly in the 5 June uprising, U.S. elements crushed our people through a bloody massacre. Following 5 June, we witnessed the continued presence of U.S. advisers in Iran, in the army and in economic and political organizations and in all the sensitive sections of the country.

Were the direct and overt interventions of the United States, Britain and their allies in implementing that evil and ignominous coup against Mosaddeq's national government and in recalling the former shah not contrary to these same existing international laws and standards? Which of these countries, who today are voicing support for the U.S. spy hostages, protested to world-devouring America during those gloomy days for the Iranian nation? Which one of the representatives of these governments--even for the sake of appearances--expressed sympathy for the Iranian nation?

Why in those days did the representatives of the governments not utter a word regarding the violation of international laws and standards and the most elementary moral values by the United States and Britain which resulted in the captivity of a nation and the plunder of a country? Why even up to this day do they support U.S. interventions in Iran's affairs?

In the course of half a century--first British colonialism and later hand in hand with U.S. imperialism and its Western allies--they looted Iran and plundered the wealth of the Iranian nation as much as they could. In order to better serve their Western masters the puppet governments of Reza Khan and his son Mohammad Reza killed and tortured tens and hundred of thousands of the most noble sons of this country. However, not only did no one hear any expression from the tongues of the respected representatives of Western countries in any gethering or assembly as a mark of protest against so much oppression, crime and plundering, but the responsible governments of these gentlemen competed with each other in plundering Iran. You who are wailing about the arrest of some 50 American spies and who are sitting in mourning for the violation of international laws, why did you not say anything regarding the arrest and murder of hundreds of thousands of Iranians at the hands of the executioners of the U.S. puppet government through consultations with and by the direct instructions of American advisers? Why do you even now keep silent regarding the armed aggressions and the plots of the United States and its agents?

If, as you claim, these laws and standards are international, then their observance and respect by all governments is an imperative and necessary matter. Tell the Iranian nation--and if you have the moral courage--your own nations whether the arrest of a number of people, who according to [word indistinct] evidence and documents used to engage in espionage activities contrary to those same international laws and standards you claim, is a violation of international laws and standards. Tell the Iranian nation if the chaining of a nation of 33 million people for a period of half a century through implementing military coups and by killing and massacring the crusading and fighting sons of this country, is a violation of international laws and standards. For the United States the law of the jungle is the issue, not international laws.

World-devouring America, not only in the court of the Iranian nation, but even according to those same existing international laws is condemned before progressive mankind and the world's public opinion, and must confess its crimes. It should return the plundered wealth of the former shah and his corrupt family to the Iranian nation and should refrain from engaging in plots and provocations against the system of the Islamic Republic of our homeland. It is only under these circumstances that one can talk about the observance of international laws and the release of the hostages.

Review of Mossadeq's U.S. Policy

TA201540 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 19 Aug 80

[Unattributed commentary: "A Lesson From the Bitter Events of History"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: Wild U.S. imperialism and old and feeble British colonialism, long before the ominous August of 1953, were engaged in preparations to implement a treacherous coup against the national government of Dr Mossadeq. American agents, in the form of the Baqa'is and associates like him, [word indistinct] were laying the groundwork for this U.S. and British plot. An interesting point to which attention should be devoted in connection with the attitude of the late Dr Mossadeq toward Iran's foreign enemies is the problem of that deceased man's understanding of U.S. policy.

It was obvious for a long time that behind the scenes a serious collusion had been achieved between the United States and Britain against Iran and the national movement of our nation. However, the measures of the late Mossadeq with regard to the United States were very cautious and (?limited). He was not prepared to accept the fact that U.S. imperialism is the enemy of the Iranian nation and the number one enemy of the Iranian nation. It is noteworthy that precisely at the time when the note by Truman and Churchill was delivered to Mossadeq, their agents in Iran were planning a new coup d'etat, and it is still more interesting that, exactly as in our era, the planning of this coup d'etat was accompanied by attacks on progressive and popular forces and by clamor about the so-called threat of communism and warm waters and such nonsense, which these days also are on the tongue of some of those selfsame agents of U.S. imperialism.

In fact, at that time both the security forces and the news media, including the government radio, had openly placed attacks on the progressive and popular forces on their current agenda. It must not be forgotten that not only the late Dr Mossadeq, but an overwhelming majority of his entourage and the leaders of the national front, also did not have, in principle, any opposition to the monarchy and were concerned by any slogan which used to be raised by the true progressive and Islamic forces--the forces of the masses and the people--against the shah. The plotters of the court also used to take the greatest advantage and benefit from this weak point of the national front. These facts must be told today, particularly in conditions when, on the one hand, the agents of the United States and imperialism are preparing those same methods to implement a dangerous plot against the Iranian revolution, and on the other hand, a certain group wants to politically exploit the movement of the late Mossadeq [words indistinct] which, despite all the shortcomings, was a national and anti-imperialist movement.

Later, following the 19 August coup d'etat, when the late Dr Mossadeq was a captive in the prison of the armored brigade of the former shah, he gradually came to comprehend the bitter fact that the aim of the imperialists in citing the threat of communism included himself also. In that same prison the late Mossadeq wrote: On should be skeptical of the good will of great countries because they have made communism a pretext so that they can exploit our oil resources for another 40 years. Will we learn the necessary lessons from these events of history, or will history be repeated?

15 Aug Commentaries

TA162031 [Editorial Report] The Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 15 August carried two commentaries. The first commentary was entitled: "Let Us Not Allow History To Be Repeated." It said: Only a few days are left until 19 August--the anniversary of the sinister coup d'etat by world-devouring United States and British colonialism aided by Ashraf. Heeding those events today is essential because many witnesses and documents of world-devouring U.S. imperialism and its masked and unmasked mercenaries confirm that they wish to repeat the coup d'etat in a different way. U.S. imperialism once again has not only concentrated its vast military force near the southern shores of Iran, mobilized thousands of former Savakists and former regime supporters to carry out a dangerous plot against the Islamic Republic and the gains of the Iranian revolution under the slogan of "Not Eastern but Western." It is not without reason that during these days all these masked Western supporters are making great efforts to mislead public opinion from the real danger of U.S. imperialism and counterrevolution threatening us and our Islamic Republic. They have resorted to the same methods used during the 19 August coup.

Today, we see that history had repeated itself. Under these sensitive conditions, once more dirty hands have come out of the sleeve of U.S. imperialism and are resorting to the same threats, provocations and slanders to mislead public opinion. These elements are busy preparing the ground to implement the plans of the CIA.

The second commentary was entitled: "The Obvious Intervention of the United States in our Country's Internal Affairs Continues." It said: A few days ago a coup d'etat plot hatched by Ashraf and Bakhtiar was thwarted. All the actions of the former regime supporters are conducted by the U.S. CIA. Ashraf supports all the activities with the money plundered from the Iranian nation.

This antirevolutionary goup (?needs) the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf area, where the Pentagon is increasing its military force in Oman. The U.S. defense secretary had declared that the Pentagon intends to use $5 million to build new bases in Diego Garcia. This action of the Pentagon is tantamount to exerting military pressure on Iran and supporting the antirevolutionary actions and U.S. mercenaries in Egypt.

In his election campaign, Carter has justified the interventions of his country in Iran under the excuse of freeing the hostages. Whereas in the United States many believe that if the United States acted according to Iran's demands--ending the freeze on the Iranian assets in U.S. banks, confessing to having participated in the crimes of the former regime--the U.S. hostages would have been freed a long time ago. The Carter administration wants to resolve its differences with Iran by resorting to military force. This is to its benefit only.

We all remember that a conference to investigate U.S. crimes in Iran was held in Tehran and documents were produced proving U.S. intervention in Iran's domestic affairs during the former regime and even after the revolution. As a result of the U.S. refusal to comply with the demands of the Iranian nation, the requirements for the release of the U.S. hostages--the majority of whom had resorted to spying to overthrow the Islamic Republician regime--still exist.

We must pay attention to the fact that Pakistan and China aid to the United States in her obivous interventions in the domestic affairs of our country. But all the actions will be met with failure, because the Iranian nation is vigilant and will not allow history to repeat itself.

16 Aug Commentaries

GF161940 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 16 August carried three commentaries.

The first commentary wan entitled: "The Well-Timed Decision of the Revolutionary Organization of Iran's Islamic Army." It said: The Revolution Court of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces made an announcement some time ago regarding the nonpayment of pensions to retired army pe sonnel living outside the country. The announcement also contains the point that any retired personnel returning to Iran after the announcement would be given consideration and a decision would be made on their cases. This decision was wholly supported by personnel of the armed forces and called for a decision against counterrevolutionaries and transfer of funds out of the country. Personnel of the armed forces since the start of the revolution have always asked for purges of elements loyal to the previous regime. The request was unfortunately not given any attention at the time. Some of those elements were even given sensitive posts by the new government. The temporary government of Bazargan did not stop the escape of some of these corrupt elements. Their actions against Iran from outside are obvious to all today. The majority of them are lackeys of the CIA and Pentagon, working under their direction against Iran. These are the same people who have been receiving pension and have been active participants in the eight coups against the Iranian Government. The government of Bazargan and other offices that have been paying these people not only have contributed to transferring currency out of Iran but have also helped the enemies of Iran. The thing causing concern for the population is the hands that are still trying to stop the implementation of this order against the Revolution, using the people's money.

The armed forces have asked for review of files of officers who have not been able to escape yet. The files of the retired should be reviewed under the laws of the revolution.

The second commentary was entitled: "The Dangerous Policies of Collusion." It said: After the fall of the shah's regime, the American interests and military bases in the oil-producing area of the gulf became unstable. Washington in the past ruled the area through the bloody regime of the former shah, but now it is forced to act as the gendarme in the area to stamp out the anti-imperialistic movements. The oil-producing countries in the gulf who want to rid themselves of American plots and use their oil wealth for their own growth are against the imperialist policy of collusion by the United States. The world-devouring United States wants to form a defense pact against the imaginary threat of Soviet intervention and is trying to force this on the countries of the region. These countries know very well that the Soviet Union does not need the Persian Gulf oil. The real threat to the area comes from the United States, which has stationed a large number of its ships in the area.

The countries of the region, having noted the U.S. plots against Iran, are aware of the dangers of U.S. military presence in the area and thus are against the imperialist pact offered by the United States. It should not be forgotten that this pact is mostly aimed against Iran. Washington, in implementing this policy of collusion, is depending on Egypt and Oman. As-Sadat has given complete use of Egypt's bases to the United States and those can be used to invade our country. In another agreement recently made between the United States and Oman, the Americans will be exercising control over the Strait of Hormuz. This means that Qabus has sold out Oman to the United States in return for arms. The United States will be spending $800 million for one base in the country and is building a new base in Al-Masira for submarines and aircraft. Kenya and Somalia have also been used by the United States for bases from which our country can be threatened. Because of all this the oil-producing countries condemn this policy of collusion and ask for removal of all U.S. bases from the area.

The third commentary was entitled: "we must cut off the hands of the counterrevolutionaries." It said: In our free country the fight between the revolution and counterrevolutionaries continues. The arrest of Savakists and elements of the accursed regime of the former shah does not surprise our people any longer. Our revolution continues and all the attention is on the fact that no one who was involved against the freedom seekers should escape justice. In the last few days another group of satanic Savakists was arrested, among whom Morteza (Shahdidi), an army officer and deputy of the SAVAK, head of the Karadj police, and the head of the SAVAK strike forces in Shiraz, and a number of Savakists in the army could be seen.

The recent arrests did not surprise anyone, but the refusal of Madani's credentials by the Majles, his involvement with American officials, together with his help in the escape of officers of the Imperial Army and the request of the Majles deputies for his arrest became hot news. As Ayatollah Khalkhali said, Admiral Madani was directly active in the latest plot against the Islamic Republic's government and the person of Ayatollah Khomeyni.

The question comes to mind: How was it possible for Admiral Madani and people like him to be part of the ruling officials in the revolution? He was the minister of defense. Is it not dangerous to let representatives of the capitalists, those who gained their fortune during the last regime, to be part of the ruling group? These classes also do have antiroyalists and supporters of the revolution, but it is also a fact that most of them cannot be real supporters of the rights of the oppressed. It is interesting that Madani was elected as a deputy of the Majles. The real deputy should be a representative of the working class masses. The fact that people such as Madani were elected is another warning to the oppressed masses who gave their blood to overthrow the government of shah.

The counterrevolutionaries are still in power and use the purging to their own ends to paralyze the government and rid themselves of their enemies. They want to put leaders in the country who can stop the masses getting their just rewards and are trying to put Iran yet again in the chain of American imperialism. But the nation of Iran will not let the wheel of history turn back.

17 Aug Commentary

GF171924 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 17 August carried a commentary entitled: "The Plundered Wealth of the Deposed Shah Should Be Returned to the Iranian Nation" which says the fight against U.S. intervention in Iran's internal affairs and for the return of the plundered wealth of the deposed shah continues. The White House hoped the death of the shah would end the stalemate with Iran. What has not occurred to it is that the cause of such grievances goes much deeper and is not related to the shah alone. The demand of the people of Iran in exchange for freedom of the hostages is not only a confession of active plotting against Iran by the United States. These plots start from the time that the CIA achieved the overthrow of Mossadeq and the return of the shah and followed with participation of all the U.S. presidents by supporting the shah's regime and playing the role of gendarme of the Persian Gulf. The Government of Iran wasted billions of dollars per year on the salaries of American advisers. These advisers were the shah's real council in military, international and political matters and it was they who orchestrated Iranian policies according to American needs and benefits. After the escape of the deposed shah, the Iranian nation asked for the return of the plundered wealth. But Rockefeller and Kissinger, who are the biggest forces of plunder of our country's wealth, disagreed with this just request of Iranian nation. The American authorities not only froze Iran's assets in the United States, they also started to spend them. It is now known that Iranian money is used to pay for the arms for Afghan mercenaries. These same groups are using these arms to attack our country. The crimes of the United States against our country continue.

18 Aug Commentary

TA190622 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 18 August carried a commentary entitled: "Historical Facts According to Documents." It states that in order to divert the just and legal struggles of the Iranian people against its No 1 enemy, the agents of U.S. imperialism have repeatedly raised this baseless and false problem that allegedly during the period of the nationalization of oil the Eastern bloc refrained from purchasing Iran's oil, and consequently helped in weakening the government of Mossadeq. It is not surprising that these agents used to raise such false issues in the past on the orders of the Savakists and their American masters. However, it is odd and unfortunate that now a certain group--whether knowingly or unknowingly--is repeating those same charges fabricated by the Savakists writers and does not want even to bother itself with studying the documents and reviewing the events of those days. Therefore, a review of the events of those days and the problem of the proposal of purchase of oil by socialist countries is necessary.

According to the oil nationalization law passed by the Majles at that time the old customers of the oil company had precedence in the purchase of oil and since the Soviet Union was not a customer of the oil company it was not able to purchase oil after nationalization. Therefore, the claim that the Soviet Union refrained from purchasing oil is a fable fabricated by SAVAK and by those who want to unburden themselves of historical responsibility. Moreover, the Polish and Czech governments, who had previously obtained oil from the oil company, immediately following nationalization referred to the Iranian Government and announced their readiness to purchase Iranian oil.

However, the Mossadeq government remained completely silent regarding the receipt of proposals from socialist countries. The socialist countries later attempted to purchase Iranian oil indirectly; however, this attempt also failed, and the Mossadeq government did not sell even one drop of oil to socialist countries. Thus, these are the facts regarding the issue of the sale of oil to socialist countries which cannot be obscured by the writings and speeches of the Savakists and writers of the oil monopolies.

KHAMENE'I DENOUNCES RELIGIOUS VICTIMIZATION

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[Text]- Tehran--Victimization of the members of the country's religious minorities who happen to be government's employees is un-Islamic and should be avoided "unless they are counter-revolutionaries," Tehran's Imam Jomeh (Friday prayer leader) said yesterday.

The call was made at Friday's mass prayer congregation by Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, who warned the authorities not to purge members of religious minorities "for no other reason than their religion." Khamene'i told the congregation that there were two Islamic trends in society "one of which did not accept Imam Khomeyni'e leadership. But the direction of Islamic Revolution is the one set by Imam Khomeyni," he siad. He said that Imam Khomeyni constituted a living embodiment of revolutionary path followed by the nation.

Referring to the water shortages in the capital Kamene'i said that counter-revolutionaries were overusing water in order to create shortages in Tehran.

He then referred to the recent abortive coup saying that it was the committed members of the armed forces and especially those in the air force who helped to foil this conspiracy. "And this shows how healthy and devoid of corruption our armed forces are."

The earlier speaker ar Friday's congregation was deputy for Esfahan, Ali Akbar Parvaresh, who praised the nation for its obedience to Imam Khomeyni. "Such obedience," he said, was an important feature of our people's revolutionary ethics. Such ethics has come to our people from the holy Koran which, since the inception, has advocated it."

He said the revolution has suffered because of a handful of people who had led it astray. "Such people are pure individualists," he said. "Had these people not been given leading positions we would not have faced our current problems," he added.

Parvaresh then referred to the future prime minister, saying that he should be like an earthquake shaking the foundations of society. "That is why we need a determined premier dedicated to the cause of Islam."